

At the time of writing the first note, the present author was unaware of the Scottish Insects Record Index (SIRI) run by the Royal Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh; this ignorance was correctly and usefully exposed by Shaw (*Ent. Rec.*, (1987) **99**: 37-38). The author is most grateful to Miss Isobel Baldwin of the Royal Museum of Scotland for supplying photocopies of historic published records for *Eilema complana*. This note provides an opportunity to commend the SIRI to entomologists, particularly holidaying 'foreigners'.

The additional records for Scotland are:—

(1) Elgin — rare — Mr. Gellie. Gordon, G. *Zoologist* for 1861: 7667. There are no recent records for Elgin. Ms Christine Sangster of the Elgin Museum reports that there are specimens in their collection, including some in material assembled by a local collector; unfortunately, all these lack data. The similar common footman, which has *Lithosia complanula* Boisduval as a popular synonym, has been recently recorded from Elgin in Heath *et al* (1979) *Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland* **9**, Mr. Gellie's record may refer to the common footman.

(2) Marchmount, Dumfries — not common. Lenonn, W. *Transactions of the Dumfries & Galloway Natural History & Antiquarian Society* for 1862-3: 56. This record is believable, however, it is possible that the record could refer to the common footman which is recorded from the area by Heath *et al* (*op. cit*) but is missing from Lenonn's list. Dumfries town does not seem to offer the rocky coast that the scarce footman seems to require in south west Scotland.

(3) Mull of Galloway — one — Mr. Henderson the lighthouse keeper. Jackson, D. J. *Ent. Rec.* **22**:117. There would seem to be no good reason to doubt this record.

(4) Galashiels. A very dubious larval record is doubted and discussed by Bolam, G. *History of the Berwickshire Naturalist's Club* (1926) **25**: 554. I. D. WALLACE, Liverpool Museum 6.4.1987.

THE FEATHERED BRINDLE, APOROPHYLA AUSTRALIS (BOISD.) (LEP.: NOCTUIDAE) FROM PEMBROKESHIRE — On 22.v.1986, an attractive, but unfamiliar, large noctuid caterpillar was accidentally dislodged from vegetation alongside a car park at Broomhill Burrows, Freshwater West, Pembrokeshire (grid ref SM(12) 885000). After a short search, another two were found. A variety of adjacent food-plants were offered and kidney vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria* L. was accepted. Within a week all three larvae had pupated; two shrivelled within their cocoons but a slightly crippled female emerged the following September.

Heath *et al* (1983) *Moths & Butterflies of Great Britain & Ireland* **10** show that the species has been recorded from south-west Wales but that area is not given in the distributional summary by Skinner, B. (1984) *Colour Identification Guide to Moths of the British Isles*. This suggests that there are no recent Welsh records. I. D. WALLACE, Liverpool Museum, 2.4.1987.

AN INTERESTING SPECIMEN OF THE WHITE PROMINENT MOTH – following the recent articles in this Journal about *Leucodontia bicoloria* D. & S. (S.C.S. Brown, *Ent. Rec.* **98**: 9-10 and R. F. Haynes **96**: 1-6) I was fascinated to notice in the British Museum (Natural History) under one of the assumed British specimens of *bicoloria* the note “Seen by the Poet Swinburn”. This refers to the great Victorian poet Algernon Charles Swinburn, I presume. Was he, perhaps, a collector? Can anyone throw any light on this? Dr. P. J. EDWARDS, Stars Cottage, Stars Lane, Dinton, Bucks.

THE WHITE ADMIRAL BUTTERFLY IN CENTRAL OXFORD – on three occasions during the summers of 1985 and 1986 I observed specimens of *Lagoda camilla* L. in Central Oxford. The first was on the afternoon of 17.viii.1985, when I observed a butterfly settled on the pavement adjacent to the Town Hall. The second was observed settled in a quiet street on 14.vii.1986, and a third two days later flying near a church in main shopping street (Cornmarket). All seemed unlikely habitats for this fine butterfly. K. EDWARDS 15 Cobden Street, Dundee.

## Current Literature

**Sphingidae Mundi: Hawk Moths of the world** by Bernard D’Abrera. 226 pp. 80 colour plates. 250 x 340 mm. E. W. Classey Ltd., 1987. £97.50.

This superb work on the hawk-moths of the world is the first single volume on the Sphingidae to be published for over 80 years, and fulfills a need long felt by students and collectors of this interesting family.

The book follows the now familiar format of Bernard D’Abrera’s preceding works on the Butterflies of the World with a short introduction followed by a two page glossary and a systematic catalogue of genera. The following 200 pages comprise a systematic, illustrated catalogue of the known species of Sphingidae. Over 1000